



**A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**  
**July 2008**  
**HE KNOWS YOU AND HE CARES FOR YOU**

He knows YOU! Personally, intimately, and with great delight He chose you- and created you for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11 KJV). As we look at (and hopefully study) the following Scriptures- you may already be familiar with them, or perhaps you have not read or heard them before. In either case, God's Word (the only source and foundation of TRUTH) ministers life, hope and revelation to us as we learn, apply it and grow in Him. We never tire as He speaks to us and reminds us of His love. God is love- and love always is expressed and demonstrated not just in word but in action.

Long before the world was- God chose you! Amazing, isn't it? Scripture declares "Long ago, even before He made the world, God chose us to be His very own, through what Christ would do for us; He decided then to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault- we who stand before Him covered with love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us." And He did this because He wanted to (Ephesians 1:4, 5 LB)! The Message reads "... He had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of His love, to be made whole and holy by His love. Long, long ago He decided to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure He took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of His lavish gift-giving by the hand of His beloved Son (MSG Eph. 1:4, 5). God not only chose you- He wanted you to belong to Him and His family- a wonderful blood-bought family! It says a lot about our God- we were not created to be alone- but to BELONG- to Him and to each other- that Jesus would be revealed to us, in us, and through us to those about us and the world, and that our lives would have purpose, direction and fulfillment.

Psalms 139 speaks in detail of the Lord knowing you personally. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139:13-16 NIV). Psalm 119:73 AMP says "Your hands have made me, cunningly fashioned and established me..." The Lord says to you "I have called you by name, you are Mine" (Isaiah 43:1 NASB)! In Psalm 139:17, 18 LB we see that in knowing us He is thinking about us all the time! "How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!" You are definitely on His mind....

In this cold, impersonal, and sometimes cruel world, He cares for you! In the times when you feel no-one cares- He cares. The Word of God lovingly reveals His care. You are more than your past, more than your present behavior, more than your hurts, and more than your circumstances. You are His! For every need in your life He is there- and His love for you motivates Him to action in your behalf. His love is everlasting (Jeremiah 31:3 NASB), His love is unfailing (Psalm 107:8, 9 NIV). "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8 NIV).

We need to respond to His love. He is to be "first and best" in our lives- we must be obedient, yielded vessels desiring always His will for our lives and desiring always to please Him- the One who gave everything that we might have life. We are to be close to Him and stay close to Him- walking in the light He has given us. We may then expect and experience His care.

He is a refuge and hiding place for us. "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27 NKJV). If you ever wondered if you would fall and not get up again- remember His arms are underneath you. If you need a hiding place from

all that is about you, Scripture declares “In the shadow of His hand He has hidden me” (Isaiah 49:2 NKJV).

When you are fearful, your caring God says “Fear not (there is nothing to fear), for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you, yes I will hold you up and retain you with My (victorious) right hand of rightness and justice” (Isaiah 41:10 AMP). “For I the Lord your God hold your right hand; I am the Lord, who says to you, Fear not; I will help you” (Isaiah 41:13 AMP).

It is glorious to think of the One who knows you and cares for you and is with you at all times. “The Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8 NKJV).

His care for you is so great that He asks you to give your burdens to Him- so He can carry them for you! “...Casting the whole of your care (all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all) on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. (1 Peter 5:7 AMP). His eyes are upon you and He does guide you, strengthen you and satisfy you (even in difficulties). “And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire is scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail” (Isaiah 58:11 NASB).

The Lord delights in you (Isaiah 62:4 NASB) and deeply cares for you. There is so much evidence of His care throughout the Bible. He does not stand “afar off”, neither does He leave us to our own devices and solutions in this life- and for this we are glad and thankful! He is “hands-on”- (and we are the work of His hands) compassionate, powerful, and willing to help if we but ask.

You may wonder about His care when life gets hard. For us who love Him and walk with Him there are, and will be, trials, tests, persecution, opposition, sorrow, many things we did not expect or plan for- and the enemy (who lies to us about God, about ourselves and others, about our circumstances, and anything else that will weaken, distract or discourage us). He will keep it up until we believe, confess, and declare the TRUTH (God’s word) in every situation. We must believe that what God says is final and stand upon it. The Word is a weapon- given by God for our blessing, success and victory. The following Scriptures declare who God is and what He does in the midst of our hard places. “But you are a shield around me, O Lord, my Glorious One, who lifts up my head” (Psalm 3:3 NIV). “He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me” (Psalm 18:17 NIV). “On the day when I was weakest, they attacked. But the Lord held me steady. He led me to a place of safety, for He delights in me” (Psalm 18:18, 19 LB). “For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5). “... for You are my Rock of safety” (Psalm 28:1 LB). “...He is my strength, my shield from every danger” (Psalm 28:7 LB). “Defend your people Lord; defend and bless your chosen ones. Lead them like a shepherd and carry them forever in your arms” (Psalm 28:9 LB). “For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe” (Psalm 61:3 NIV). So we see Him as our shield, our safety (in Him). He is our rock- on that we can build our lives on- who will never break or be moved. He is our shield and – Glory to God- our defender. He leads us and carries us. The One who cares for us will “lift our heads about all that goes on around us!”

Please read Psalm 91 in its entirety. The promise is of divine protection for us who are loving Him, walking with Him in obedience, trusting Him, and submitting to Him. “If you make the Most High your dwelling- even the Lord, who is my refuge- then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands...” (Psalm 91:9-12 NIV).

“Because he loves Me, says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation” (Psalm 91:14-16 NIV).

As we read and study the Word, may our minds and hearts be open to Him who over and over again speaks of His love and care for us. To Him be the Glory!

Walking with you....



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